

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
BOB FRITZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Bob Fritz, as he celebrates his retirement after nearly 40 years of unwavering leadership, kindness and devotion as CEO of Avtron Manufacturing, Inc., of Independence, Ohio.

The son of Dwain and Carolyn Fritz, founders of Avtron Manufacturing Inc., Bob Fritz's parents instilled within him a strong work ethic and values. He graduated from Shaw High School and enrolled at Carnegie Mellon University, where he graduated with honors and a degree in physics. He later earned an MBA from Harvard Business School, where he was awarded a National Honorary Fellowship.

Mr. Fritz's intellect is matched by his kindness, ability to relate to others, and build upon a new vision. Within a few years of becoming CEO, Avtron soared to new levels in the areas of sales, product development, and a renewed focus on the welfare of employees. In the past 36 years, Avtron increased its number of employees from 100 to 400, 95% of whom live in Cuyahoga County. During his tenure, Avtron was honored numerous times, including three North Coast 99 Awards for being one of the best places to work in Northeast Ohio. Mr. Fritz has also volunteered his time as both a member and a leader of several community organizations, including Vistage, an organization of CEOs that focus on guiding, mentoring and assisting struggling businesses.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Bob Fritz on the occasion of his retirement as leader of Avtron Manufacturing, Inc. His devotion to his family, employees, and community serves to strengthen the foundation of greater Cleveland. I wish him, his wife Linnet, and their entire family an abundance of health and happiness as he journeys onward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 30, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall Nos. 402–414. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 402, “yes”—Recognizing the work and importance of special education teachers; rollcall No. 403, “yes”—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 North Maitland Avenue in Maitland, Florida, as the “Paula Hawkins Post Office Building”; rollcall No. 404, “yes”—Recognizing the residents of the City of Tracy, California, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the city's incorporation, for their century of

dedicated service to the United States; rollcall No. 405, “yes”—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Artesia, New Mexico, as the “Alejandro Renteria Ruiz Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”; rollcall No. 406, “yes”—On Ordering the Previous Question; rollcall No. 407, “yes”—Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and for other purposes; rollcall No. 408, “yes”—To enable State homes to furnish nursing home care to parents any of whose children died while serving in the Armed Forces; rollcall No. 409, “yes”—Providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses; rollcall No. 410, “yes”—Rule providing for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4173, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; rollcall No. 411, “yes”—Fountainhead Property Land Transfer Act; rollcall No. 412, “no”—On Motion to Recommit the Conference Report with Instructions; rollcall No. 413, “yes”—Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009; rollcall No. 414, “yes”—Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Clarification Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my fellow congressional Regents, Representatives SAM JOHNSON and DORIS MATSUI, and our colleague Representative FRANK WOLF, to introduce the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute Enhancement Act, which authorizes funding for this institute's important work in conservation biology. Companion legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senators PATRICK LEAHY, THAD COCHRAN and CHRIS DODD.

While some 30 million individuals annually visit and enjoy the Smithsonian's 19 museums and National Zoo, the Smithsonian's nine research centers carry out important work that advances the Institution's mission of expanding and diffusing knowledge. As one of these centers, the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, SCBI, is headquartered in Front Royal, Virginia, in Representative WOLF's district, at the facility previously known as the National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center. The SCBI launched in January of 2010 as an umbrella for six Smithsonian units working in a global effort to conserve species and train future generations of conservationists.

The Smithsonian Institution, SI, has a long history of creatively collaborating with strategic partners to advance the important goals of discovering and understanding biological diversity, advancing scientific solutions and conserving wildlife. Toward that end, the National Zoological Park, NHP, Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan completed in December 2008

includes plans to create a campus-like setting for the SCBI at the NHP facility in Front Royal, Virginia, NHP-FR, with space capable of hosting multiple partners who share common goals and are willing to work with SI scientists and staff to advance efforts in conservation biology.

To allow the Smithsonian to progress in its master plan, this bill authorizes the SI to invest \$1 million for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011 and \$3 million in aggregate for all succeeding fiscal years in order to plan, design and construct an education facility at its Front Royal site. The bill also authorizes the Smithsonian Board of Regents to enter into agreements for the provision of housing and other services related to the facility's programs at no cost to the SI. Finally, it authorizes the SI to use its non-federal funds to plan, design and construct animal holding and related program facilities on the property. The goal is to open the facilities by the Fall of 2012 semester.

The SCBI scientists' domestic and international biodiversity accomplishments span many decades. For example:

Since 1972, SCBI scientists have studied the endangered golden lion tamarins and established one of the most successful reintroduction programs ever attempted. Thanks to their leadership, more than 1,500 animals survive in Brazil's Atlantic coastal rain forest.

Since 1978, SCBI scientists have conducted breeding and conservation research on captive and wild endangered clouded leopards. More than 70 clouded leopards have been born at the SI's Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Virginia in the past 30 years, including two born in 2009. Working with Thai counterparts, the SCBI team developed a captive breeding program that has produced 40 cubs. These collaborative international projects serve as a model for conserving treasured species.

Since 1985, SCBI scientists have led the way in developing breeding and management techniques resulting in the birth of nearly 600 endangered black-footed ferrets at SCBI facilities in Front Royal, Virginia. More than 200 SCBI-produced ferrets and their descendants have been released in seven states.

Madam Speaker, SCBI staff has conducted training courses for undergraduate, graduate and professional audiences in the United States and at more than 20 international locations—reaching more than 5,000 individuals from over 85 countries. Supporting the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute's next phase of development will not only expand its notable record of providing educational classes, it will also help ensure that the next generation of conservation and scientific professionals has the necessary training to help sustain a biodiverse planet.

I urge my colleagues to join us in passing this bipartisan legislation so that our Smithsonian scientists can continue to be recognized as global leaders in the field of biodiversity and so that our nation can continue to do its part in leaving the planet in the best possible condition for our children.